


[Check Stocks](#) | [AP Wire](#) | [Yellow Pages](#)
[SEARCH →](#)
[HOME PAGE](#)
[SITE INDEX](#)
[TRAFFIC](#)
[NEWS](#)

- [Long Island](#)
- [New York City](#)
- [Ground Zero](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [World](#)
- [Health/Science](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Student Briefing](#)

[SPORTS](#)

- [Scoreboard](#)
- [Mets](#)
- [Yankees](#)
- [Minor Leagues](#)
- [Nets](#)
- [Devils](#)
- [High Schools](#)
- [Colleges](#)
- [Columnists](#)

[BUSINESS](#)

- [Stock Quotes](#)
- [Retirement / Act II](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Print Edition](#)

[OPINION](#)

- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Columnists](#)

[FEATURES](#)

Officials Focus On Suffolk Gangs

By Zachary R. Dowdy
STAFF WRITER

June 10, 2003

Suffolk's gangs face a more concerted effort by local, county and federal authorities, who yesterday announced a newly launched plan to share resources and intelligence to stamp out one of the county's most stubborn public safety problems.

An intergovernmental task force, composed of Suffolk police, prosecutors, Huntington area school officials and Town of Huntington code enforcement officers, was called for by Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington), who presided over a meeting yesterday to announce the effort at Huntington Town Hall.

Suffolk's initiative resembles Nassau's effort started in November to combine the forces of agencies to combat gang activity.

"I'm very confident we can come up with a plan that is not only successful in Huntington but can become a national model," Israel said during a roundtable discussion that drew Suffolk Police Commissioner John Gallagher, Suffolk District Attorney Thomas Spota, Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone, Huntington school officials and parents.

Officials said it was the first of many summits designed to address what authorities consider a persistent problem on Long Island.

Petrone said the gangs are often the outgrowth of many other social ills, from poverty and unstable families to the dearth of affordable housing.

"There are so many different reasons why a kid might go that way," Petrone said.

Petrone and Huntington Town board member Marlene Budd announced plans to launch a "Take Back the Block" program designed to help tenants become owners of the properties they rent.

"It's always helpful to bring in all the different levels of government," Gallagher said. "What today's meeting did was reinforce commitments that have been made all around, and it allowed us to agree that they all are going to continue."

Israel, who obtained \$750,000 in federal funds to empower law enforcement with technology and skills to target gangs in Suffolk, said the group hopes to have a concrete plan drafted by the start of the next school semester.

Copyright © 2003, [Newsday, Inc.](#)

[Email this story](#)

[Printer friendly format](#)

Top Stories

[Riverhead Parishioners Sued by Pastor](#)

[Wang Wants To Bring Nets 'Home'](#)

[Israeli Rocket Attack Wounds Hamas Leader](#)

[3 Hurt in Boating Crash](#)

COMPLETE CLASSIFIEDS

[Jobs](#) | [Homes](#) | [Cars](#)

LOCAL SEARCH

- [Restaurants](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Travel](#)

MARKETPLACE

BUY NEWSDAY PHOTOS

SHOPS OF LI

WEDDINGS OF DISTINCTION

INTRODUCTIONS

DOING BUSINESS WITH NEWSDAY

• [How to Subscribe](#)

• [How to Advertise](#)

• [Career Opportunities](#)

• [About Us](#)

• [Contact Us](#)

- [Travel](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Faith](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Home & Gardens](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

- [The Calendar](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Pop Music](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Theater](#)
- [Television](#)
- [FanFare](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Marketplace](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[Today's Newsday](#)

[Hoy](#)
[Spanish Language](#)
[Paper](#)

[WB11](#)
[News/Sports](#)
[Webcasts](#)

[DSA](#)
[Community Publishing](#)

[Make us your home](#)
[page](#)

By visiting this site you agree to the terms of the Newsday.com [User Agreement](#). Read our [Privacy Policy](#).

Copyright © Newsday, Inc. Produced by Newsday Electronic Publishing.

[About Us](#) | [E-mail directory](#) | [How to Advertise](#)